the present amendment, claims 1-27 and 40 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claim 28 is hereby amended. Support for the amendment to claim 28 is found in structures VI and VII shown on page 11 and paragraph 0047 on page 12. The amendments add no new matter. A document entitled VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE" showing the deletions in brackets and the additions as underlined is attached hereto.

In view of the above-described amendment and following remarks, reconsideration of claims 28-39 is respectfully requested.

§112 Rejections

Independent claim 28 and the claims that depend therefrom, namely claims 29-39, are rejected under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite. The Patent Office stated: "It is not clear how a hydroxyl group attaches to substituent Y in claim 28."

Claim 28 has been amended for clarity to indicate that the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aromatic or cyclic-aliphatic group which forms the core structure of a particular Y substitutent has at least one OSO_3R^4 moiety and, optionally, at least one OH moiety attached to it. This means that the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aromatic or cyclic-aliphatic group must have at least one sulfate moiety attached to it. It also means that the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aromatic or cyclic-aliphatic group may or may not have one hydroxyl moiety attached to it. Support for attachment of a hydroxyl moiety and a sulfate moiety to the core structure of a particular Y substitutent is found on pages 11 and 12 of the specification which describes the synthesis of certain members of the claimed compounds. If one of the OH groups that is attached to the Y substituent of the phenoxypropane diol of Structure VI is not replaced with a sulfate group, the alkyl chain which forms the core structure of the Y substitutent will have one OH moiety and one sulfate moiety attached to the it rather than the two sulfate moieties shown in Structure VII. Applicants submit that claim 28 as amended and the claims that depend therefrom are now definite.

It is submitted that claims 28-39 are now in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of such allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that further changes to the application are necessary he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

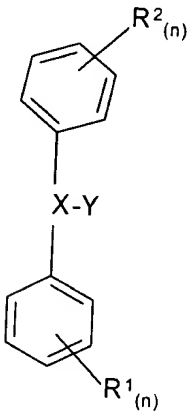
Dated: January 10, 2002

By: Pamela A. Docherty
Pamela A. Docherty, Reg. No. 40,591
(216) 622-8416

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

28. (Twice Amended) An agent which protects stratified squamous epithelium against injury by a noxious substance, and has the formula;



wherein: X is a linker selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6 alkylene, C_2-C_6 alkenylene, or C_3-C_6 alkynylene, wherein X may optionally include 1 or 2 oxygen atoms and/or 1 sulfur atom;

Y is a group pendant from X, wherein Y is a C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, aromatic or cyclic-aliphatic group to which is attached at least one $-OSO_3R^4$ moiety, and, optionally, at least one OH group, wherein R^4 is H or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation [, and, optionally, at least one hydroxyl group] ; or,

Y is $-OSO_3R^4$, wherein R^4 is H or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation;

N is an integer from 1-3; and

R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of -H, a halogen with an atomic number from 9 to 53, hydroxy, $-SO_3R^4$, $-OSO_3R^4$, -NCS, -NCO, $-NH(CO)-OR^3$, $-NH(CS)SR^3$, $-NH(C=NH)OR^3$, $-NHCOCH_2Cl$, $-NHCOCH_2Br$, $-NHCO-CH=CH_2$, $-NHC(O)-CF_3$, $-S-CH_2-CH=CH_2$, $-NHCH_2-C\equiv CH$, $-NH-CH_2-CN$, $-NH-S-CH_2-CH=CH_2$, $-O-CH_2-CH=CH_2$, $-NH-CF_3$, N-mono-, di-, tri-, tetra- and penta-haloethyl, -CN, $-NH_2$, $-NO_2$, $-NHCOCH_3$, -CHO, $-COOR^4$, $-N_3$, $-COR^3$, $-R^3OH$, $-R^3NHCOCH_3$, $-R^3OSO_3R^4$, $-R^3SO_3R^4$, $-OR^3$, $-SR^3$ and $-R^3$, wherein $-R^3$ is p-nitrophenyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, or C_2-C_6 alkynyl, if at the distal end of the substituent, or C_1-C_6 alkylene, C_2-C_6 alkenylene, or C_2-C_6 alkynylene, if at the proximal end of the substituent, and wherein R^4 is H or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.